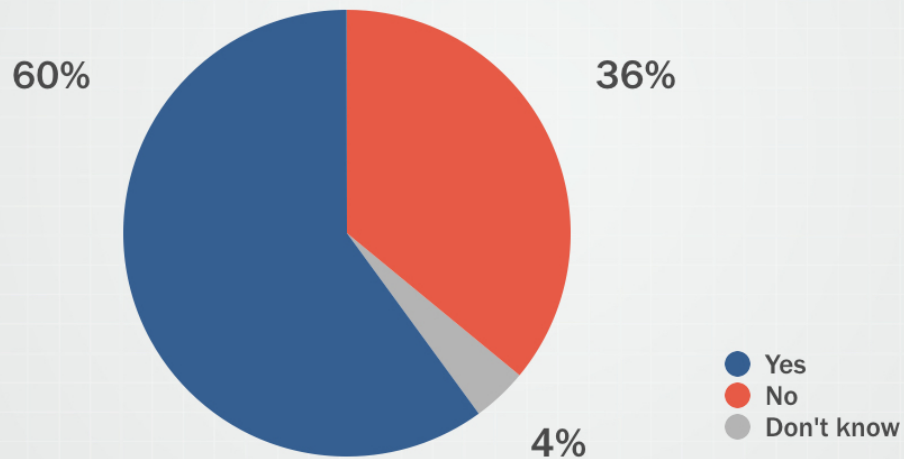


“INSIDE” INTELLIGENCE

*The Texas Weekly/Texas Tribune insider poll
for the week of 8 January 2016*

INSIDE INTELLIGENCE

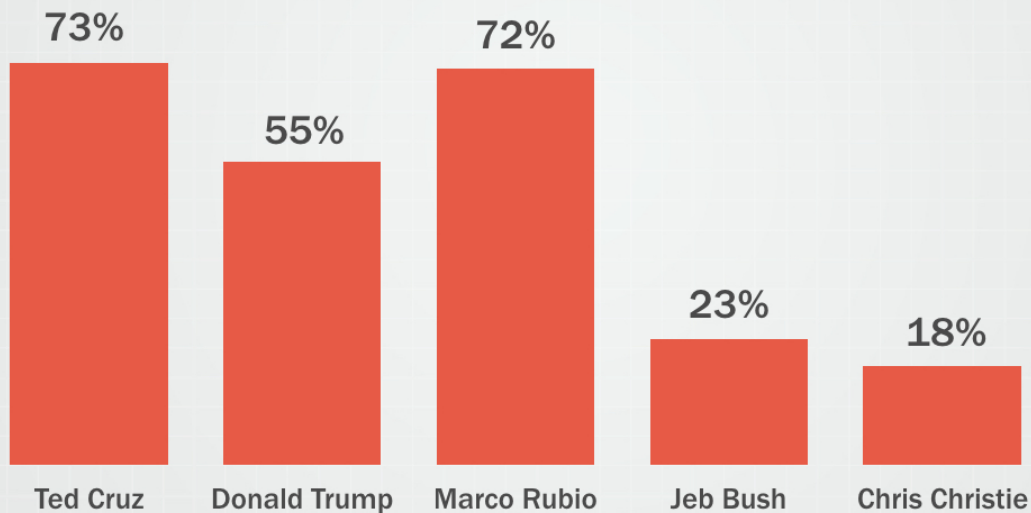
WILL THE GOP SETTLE ON A PRESIDENTIAL NOMINEE
BEFORE THE SUMMER CONVENTION?



Inside Intelligence is an informal survey of political and government insiders in Texas and is not meant to measure public opinion.

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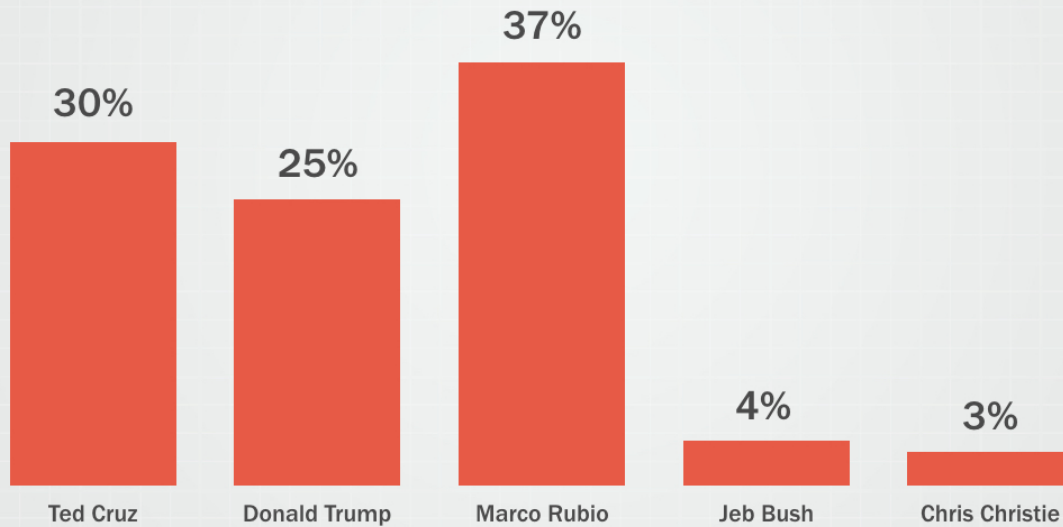
WHO'S STILL IN THE RUNNING AT A
BROKERED CONVENTION?



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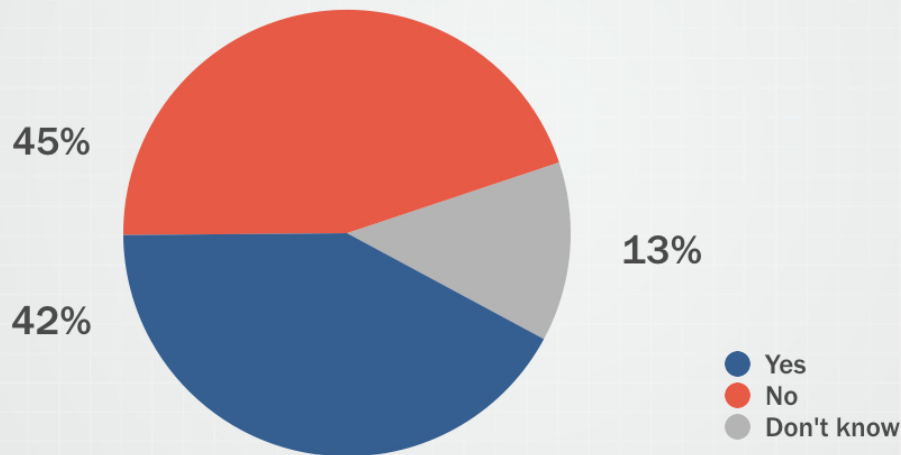
WHO GETS THE NOMINATION?



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WILL A TEXAS CONGRESSIONAL INCUMBENT
LOSE HIS OR HER PRIMARY RACE?



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Will Republicans settle their presidential contest before their summer convention?

- "Don't underestimate the power of the establishment. They can end it when it is convenient for them."
- "Look no further than 2012 when Republicans had the same concern. It's still really, very early."
- "Certainly would be fun if it wasn't settled by then. We can only wish!"
- "If they do, they will have an 'official' Republican nominee and an independent ticket led by Mr. Donald Trump!"
- "It's going to continue to be a mess until the convention."
- "Cruz wins Iowa, then most of the Southern states. It'll be tough for the others to overcome that momentum."
- "This is still the party of McCain and Romney. Rubio will win."
- "A brokered convention would be one hell of a show to watch."
- "The convention will be Trumped — the biggest RINO ever."

- "We may end up with a lunatic, but we'll decide before the convention."

If they don't, which of these candidates do you think would be in the running in a brokered convention?

- "Cruz has been cruising toward a brokered convention since day one."
- "He intends to be the nominee — AT ALL COSTS."
- "The delegates to the national convention are much more mainstream than the radicals who attend to the Texas GOP convention. Texas is only one of a few states whose grassroots elect their national delegates. Most state delegate positions are handpicked by leadership. This will create an environment that is very difficult for Cruz or Trump to win."
- "Who owns the grassroots? Hmmmmmm, Mr. Cruz does."
- "I vote in the GOP primary, and I have no clue who I would vote for today."
- "The race will be Cruz v. Rubio after New Hampshire."

Either way, who do you think (today, anyhow) will get the nomination?

- "The party needs a win and they can only get it with Rubio on top of the ticket."
- "Anyone's guess. If Trump loses some primaries, it will be between optimist Rubio and dour Cruz. Rubio may edge due to electability."
- "It's anyone's guess. Going into South Carolina in 2008, McCain was considered to be down and out. He was hanging on with one staff member and carrying his own bags onto SWA while he traveled the country. It's early January, and anything can happen at this point."
- "And it will ensure another D for the next 4 years."
- "With Marco Rubio as his running mate! An all CUBAN ticket for the Repubs — won't that be a hoot!"
- "I think Cruz is in the driver's seat. But he has to meet expectations in Iowa (first or second), then do the same in South Carolina (first or second). If he fails in either state, he's wounded and Rubio gets the nod. But if he can get Iowa, it shows the evangelical trend, and South Carolina shows his southern/conservative base — the combination of those two gives him the delegates to win the nomination."
- "Jeb. Go home, dude. It ain't workin'."
- "Jeb is the only one who has figured out that the only way out is through (Trump). And he's got the money to last."

Will a Texas congressional incumbent lose his or her primary race?

- "Gene Green will become Houston's Frank Madla. He stayed a little too late."

- "Given the number of primary challenges to incumbent U.S. reps, at least one of them has to fall. The five Dems with primaries should make it out, but I expect that Gene Green and Marc Veasey will have to work hard. (I was surprised that Beto O'Rourke didn't get a stronger challenger. I guess he's doing his job well.) I find it difficult to discern the inner working of most Texas Repub primary races, but I'll chance an outside perspective. With 12 congressional incumbents challenged, surely a few will be taken out. CD 4 is a rematch of 2014 — all three candidates ran in that long race. In CD 23, Will Hurd has struggled in past primaries, but his challenger doesn't look serious and Hurd is well backed. In CD 27, Blake Farenthold seems from afar like he should be easy to knock off, but Farenthold has already spent a lot of money and there's no indication from the outside yet that Gregg Deeb will have the funds to compete. CD 21 and CD 32 are interesting, mostly because the incumbents face multiple challengers — Lamar Smith has three and Pete Sessions has four — and they were both held under 65 percent in the 2014 primary, but Smith and Sessions are also both rolling in dough. A few Repub congressional primaries could also be influenced by competitive Texas

Senate or House races or other state contests, but the big unknown seems to me to be the effect of their bizarre presidential primary."

- "I think Pete Gallego makes a come back."

- "Brady."

- "Chances are there might be one coming home. The base is fit to be tied."

- "I would hate to be known as the SOB who beat Sam Johnson. In addition to being a hero, Sam is still a conservative opinion leader, effective Ways & Means Member, and active within his District."

- "Will Hurd"

- "None will even be close."

- "Will Hurd is working his tail off, and even Democrats admit it. I like Pete Gallego, but he told me himself he does not like D.C. Having a CIA Cyber security expert around sounds better than another rank and file in the Democratic minority party."

- "If voters are smart, Farenthold will lose. So I'm voting no incumbents lose their primary."

Our thanks to this week's participants: Gene Acuna, Cathie Adams, Brandon Aghamalian, Clyde Alexander, Jay Arnold, Charles Bailey, Andrew Biar, Allen Blakemore, Tom Blanton, Chris Britton, Raif Calvert, Lydia Camarillo, Kerry Cammack, Corbin Casteel, Elna Christopher, Kevin Cooper, Beth Cubriel, Curtis Culwell, Denise Davis, June Deadrick, Glenn Deshields, Kate Doner, Tom Duffy, David Dunn, Richard Dyer, Jack Erskine, John Esparza, Tom Forbes, Dominic Giarratani, Bruce Gibson, Eric Glenn, Kinnan Golemon, Jim Grace, Clint Hackney, Wayne Hamilton, Bill Hammond, Ken Hodges, Deborah Ingersoll, Mark Jones, Robert Kepple, Richard Khouri, Tom Kleinworth, Sandy Kress, Nick Lampson, Pete Laney, James LeBas, Luke Legate, Matt Mackowiak, Jason McElvaney, Mike McKinney, Steve Minick, Bee Moorhead, Mike Moses, Nelson Nease, Sylvia Nugent, Nef Partida, Gardner Pate, Robert Peeler, Tom Phillips, Wayne Pierce, Allen Place, Gary Polland, Jay Pritchard, Jay Propes, Ted Melina Raab, Tim Reeves, Patrick Reinhart, David Reynolds, Carl Richie, A.J. Rodriguez, Jeff Rotkoff, Grant Ruckel, Jason Sabo, Andy Sansom, Jim Sartwelle, Barbara Schlieff, Stan Schlueter, Robert Scott, Bruce Scott, Ben Sebree, Christopher Shields, Ed Small, Larry Soward, Dennis Speight, Colin Strother, Sherry Sylvester, Sara Tays, Jay Thompson, Trey Trainor, Vicki Truitt, Corbin Van Arsdale, David White, Darren Whitehurst, Angelo Zottarelli.